

FCC 12-152

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking)	
18 FCC Rcd 13187, 13188 ¶1 (2003))	ET Docket No. 03-137
)	
And)	
)	
Service Rules for the Advanced Wireless Services)	WT Docket No. 12-357
H Block---Implementing Section 6401 of the)	
Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of)	
2012 Related to the 1915-1920 MHz and)	
1995-2000 MHz Bands ¶53 footnote 95)	

To: Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Comment Filed by: Linda Kurtz
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February 3, 2013

AFFIDAVIT OF LINDA KURTZ

State of Michigan]

Washtenaw County]

I, Linda Kurtz, attest that the statements below are true to the best of my knowledge.

Comment round for ET Docket No. 03-137 and WT Docket No. 12-357.

1. My name is Linda Kurtz. My address is 2150 Foss St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103.
2. I am a massage therapist and editor.
3. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Matthew Ben-Bassat, who, through me, submitted testimony in Michigan Public Service Commission Case U-17053.

4. Mr. Ben-Bassat has suffered devastating health consequences as a result of living in a home with wireless smart meters.

QUALIFICATIONS OF MATTHEW BEN-BASSAT

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Q. Do you swear that the testimony you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

A. I do.

Q. Please state your name, address and contact information.

A. My name is Matthew Ben-Bassat. I live at 9801 Leach Lane, Dexter, Michigan 48130. My telephone number is 734-585-6569.

Q. On whose behalf are you testifying?

A. That of Intervenors Linda Kurtz and Cynthia Edwards.

Q. What are your qualifications to testify?

A. The electrical service at the house where I live is provided by Detroit Edison. I have been affected by the smart meter installation both in terms of my health and in terms of earning an income.

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW BEN-BASSAT

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. To provide information that may help the Commission in determining whether smart and digital meters create certain kinds of economic, medical, social, or other harm or hardship, as outlined in Intervenor Linda Kurtz's Petition for Intervention, to some or all persons such that Detroit Edison and the Commission must not require those who are or who are likely to be so harmed to have a smart or digital meter placed on their home or place of business or to be otherwise deprived of rights and liberties, as outlined in Intervenor Kurtz's Petition for Intervention, by the deployment of the advanced metering infrastructure, smart meters, or digital meters, and, in the alternative, that such persons must be able to avoid such harm to their person and property without being charged a fee.

Q. How long have you lived at your current residence?

A. I have lived in my home 15 years. I rent.

Q. What do you do for a living?

A. I worked as a builder and carpenter. I've done that for about 35 years.

Q. When was a smart meter installed on your home?

A. I believe it was later in July.

Q. Did you know it had been installed on your home?

A. No. But a few days after I believe it was installed, I went out to check and there was a smart meter.

Q. Why did you go out to check?

A. Because I had intense ringing in my ears. I also felt extremely agitated and really wired.

Q. So did you know about smart meters?

A. Yes. A friend of mine had told me about them, to pay attention to them. I didn't go too far with it as far as researching what he said. I talked with a few electricians.

q. So were you worried about the smart meters?

A. I was concerned, because I felt like it was a way for the electric companies to monitor my personal habits, even knowing if I was home or not.

Q. Were you worried about the health aspects of smart meters?

A. I was concerned about it because of what my friend said, but I didn't make it important enough to research or follow it.

Q. What happened to your health after the smart meter was installed?

1 A. I started experiencing almost complete sleeplessness, intense insomnia. I also felt electrical
2 shooting pains through different parts of the body. You know, I have experienced those
3 pains before that, but never at the frequency or intensity that I began to experience now. I
4 am one of those people who pays attention to everything, birds, animals, air, water. So when
5 something changes in my body, I feel it.

6 One thing I found that was happening a lot, I felt like I couldn't leave the house, like I
7 couldn't move my body right. It was like someone was moving my robot-body with a stick.
8 My brain didn't feel right. Sometimes I couldn't even move my body. Usually there was
9 extreme nausea right before I couldn't move. But I've never thrown up.

10 **Q. What did you do when you couldn't move or could barely move?**

11 A. I would try to drink some water, and then I would try to get out of my house.

12 **Q. How did you get out of the house if you couldn't move or you could barely move?**

13 A. I'd pray. It would take a little bit, but I could get out of the house.

14 **Q. How did you feel once you left the house?**

15 A. I felt better by the second. Two to three hundred feet from the house, I felt much better. I
16 am really sensitive. I can feel the energy off my neighbors' smart meters. But the ringing in
17 my ears doesn't go away. It does go away on sunny days when the sky is clear if I'm outside.
18 But I always hear it in my house.

19 **Q. Do you experience any other health problems or symptoms from the smart meter?**

20 A. There are days when I go into Lowe's, I am going to throw up, and I have to leave.
21 When I'm outside, I feel fine, but as soon as I get home

22 At home, I also experience a strong, dull pressure at my occiput, wrapping around to the
23 temple on the left side of my head. Also, I feel almost angry, there's a mood fluctuation. I
24 never used to be any angry person. I'm not saying I've never been angry, but the ongoing
25 consistency of the anger, it's become epic.

26 **Q. Do you experience any other health problems or symptoms from the smart meter?**

27 A. I feel a sick to my stomach feeling when I walk by a bunch of smart meters all lined up on a
28 wall. I get pain in my forearms, it is excruciating, a crush, like my arm is being squeezed by
29 a clamp and then released. I can experience that other times near meters, too, not just near
30 a bunch of them.

31 The artery going up the left side of my neck pulses and swells. It is painful, too, not a sharp
32 nerve pain, it's pretty dull, but it concerns me. I often get the occiput one at the same time.

33 I get numbness in my fingers and toes. I have experienced this numbness before, but it is
34 much more exaggerated now.

1 I get an intense pain in my heel and Achilles. I feel it when I get home. At night, it's almost
2 crippling.

3 I am so fatigued because I cannot sleep. It's like being tortured. I don't fall asleep.

4 I can't focus.

5 My teeth are in a lock-down bite when I sleep.

6 **Q. How do you know it is smart meters that are affecting your health?**

7 A. I wasn't feeling like this before. I was out of my home one day, and I came home, and
8 suddenly felt all these sensations. Like I said above, after a few days of feeling so bad, I went
9 out and checked my meter.

10 **Q. Did you have any health problems prior to the installation of smart meters? If so,**
11 **what were they and when did they begin?**

12 A. No. My body is really healthy. I haven't been to a doctor in 20 years. I have been to the
13 dentist.

14 **Q. So, prior, no fatigue, no depression?**

15 A. No. I'm happy most of the time.

16 **Q. How was your sleep before a smart meter was installed on your house?**

17 A. It was reasonable. The last three months, I feel like I've been in prison. I love life, I love
18 nature, I love people, I love the house. But the last three months. . . I tell you, if someone
19 wants to mess with somebody, not letting them sleep is the way to do it.

20 **Q. Have the health effects you experience as a result of smart meters affected your**
21 **ability to work and earn a living? If the answer is yes, describe how.**

22 A. Yes, because my sleep pattern is completely off. I'm unrested. I do a lot of ladder work, and
23 it messes with my balance and equilibrium. I feel dizzy, nauseated, loss of strength. I never
24 used to feel that way==I've always been so energetic. Productivity is decreased by 25
25 percent because I am just trying to feel better during my work day. The exhaustion makes
26 me depressed and unmotivated.

27 I have to go to Lowe's all the time. I have felt so bad in there sometimes that I have aborted
28 my cart and left what I was going to purchase. Sometimes, I walk in there and have to walk
29 out and leave without getting what I came for.

30 **Q. Have the health effects you experience as a result of smart meters affected your**
31 **ability to interact socially with others? If the answer is yes, describe how.**

32 A. Some, yes. It affects my cognitive skills, speech. My head hurts. It affects my ability to
33 interact socially because I'm not as attentive to the other person, listening as well, as I
34 would normally be, as focused.

1 It's had an effect on my intimate relationships. I snap, I holler. I never used to do that.

2 **Q. Have the health effects you experience as a result of smart meters affected your**
3 **ability to access public services, such as the public library, government offices? If the**
4 **answer is yes, describe how.**

5 A. No, I don't go to those places.

6 **Q. Have the health effects you experience as a result of smart meters affected your**
7 **ability to freely assemble outside? If the answer is yes, describe how.**

8 A. No.

9 **Q. Have the health effects you experience as a result of smart meters affected your**
10 **ability to access religious or spiritual services? If the answer is yes, describe how.**

11 A. No, because I don't attend religious services.

12 **Q. Have the health effects you experience as a result of smart meters affected your**
13 **ability to freely access health services? If the answer is yes, describe how.**

14 A. No, but like I said, I haven't been to the doctor in 20 years. I'm concerned about going to my
15 dentist again.

16 **Q. Have the health effects you experience as a result of smart meters affected your**
17 **ability to perform one or more major life activities not already mentioned? If the**
18 **answer is yes, describe what activities and how the effects have affected your**
19 **performance of these activities.**

20 A. Reading, because my vision is kind of blurred sometimes and because I can't focus. Now, I
21 don't read at home anymore. I was a big reader. Now I read in a café or in my car at a
22 parking lot.

23 **Q. Has your ability to live in your home been affected by the installation of smart**
24 **meters?**

25 A. Yes, most definitely. I do not feel comfortable or at ease in my home. Very unrested.

26 **Q. Is there anything else you wish to say about how smart meters have affected your**
27 **health and/or your life?**

28 A. Since the smart meter was installed, there have been power surges when I flip the lights on,
29 it's blown three switches so that I've had to replace them and blown seven light bulbs.
30 Everything I have now buzzes: lamps, DVD player, portable massage tool, infrasonic QGM
31 (which is an ultrasound machine). My refrigerators are just screaming all the time because
32 the compressors are very sensitive to the electrical surges.

33 **Q. How old is the wiring in your home?**

34 A. It's Romex.

1 **Q. Is there anything else you want to say about how the smart meters have affected your**
2 **life?**

3 A. Overall, it feels like something has happened to my body's electrical field, and a lot of things
4 don't function right.

5 **Q. What do you feel is a fair opt-out program?**

6 A. What is even close to being reasonable is to put my analog meter back on. I can read my
7 own meter. Businesses, everybody, should be able to opt out.

Respectfully submitted,

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